

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44106
TELEPHONE 421-7346

For release: November 22, 1967

ITALY PRESENTS
GIFT TO MUSEUM

The government of Italy will present a group of ancient Etruscan vases to The Cleveland Museum of Art in ceremonies Wednesday, November 22 at 11:30 a.m. in the Museum. The gift comes from the Ministry of Public Education of Italy.

The circumstances which prompted the Italian government's generosity stem from art historical detective work done by the art museum on an Etruscan bronze which found its way into the Museum's collection some years ago. In researching the origins of the bronze, the museum's director, Sherman E. Lee noted apparent similarities between the Museum bronze and an object which was described in a recent publication as having been stolen from a museum in Bologna. Further research showed that the bronze had indeed been taken from Italy and had made its way through a series of dealers to Cleveland. After positive identification the Museum immediately returned the object to the Italian government. (The dealer who sold the bronze to Cleveland has refunded the purchase price.) As a consequence, the Italian government is presenting, in gratitude, its gift.

M. 11/22/67
Release #19

checked with It. consul
on presentation date - definitely 11/22/67